

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) A distraction device for distracting the disc space between adjacent vertebrae, comprising:

an elongated stem having a height corresponding to a desired height of distraction for the disc space, said stem having a first end and a second end defining a longitudinal axis therebetween and a length along said axis that is sized to be maintained within the disc space when said elongated stem is driven into the disc space; and

a flange at said first end projecting outward from said longitudinal axis of said stem, said flange having a bone contacting face for contacting at least one of the vertebrae when said stem is driven into the disc space and for transmitting a reduction force to the vertebra upon application of an external force to the distraction device.

15. (Currently amended) The distraction device according to claim 14, wherein said elongated stem defines a bore extending between said first end and said second end.

16. (Original) The distraction device according to claim 15, wherein said bore includes a keyed bore adjacent said second end, said keyed bore having a non-circular configuration for receiving a complementary-shaped portion of a tool therethrough.

17. (Original) The distraction device according to claim 15, wherein said bore includes a threaded bore adjacent said first end for receiving a threaded portion of a tool

therein.

18. (Original) The distraction device according to claim 14, wherein said elongated stem has opposite top and bottom portions, said top and bottom portions having a bone engaging surface configured to resist expulsion of said elongated stem from the disc space.

19. (Original) The distraction device according to claim 18, wherein said bone engaging surface of said top and bottom portions include a plurality of ridges defined thereon.

20. (Original) The distraction device according to claim 18, wherein said elongated stem includes side portions between said top and bottom portions, said side portions each defining an inwardly curved surface.

21. (Currently amended) The distraction device according to claim ~~18~~ 20, wherein said flange includes inwardly curved side edges contiguous with said inwardly curved surface of a corresponding one of said side portions.

22. (Original) The distraction device according to claim 14, wherein said flange is fan shaped and is substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said elongated stem.

23. (Original) The distraction device according to claim 14, wherein:
said elongated stem includes opposite top and bottom surfaces configured to contact a superior and an inferior vertebra, respectively;

said flange projects from said stem in a direction toward the superior vertebra; and
the device includes a stop face at said first end of said stem projecting in a direction toward the inferior vertebra.

24. (Currently amended) An apparatus for reducing a spondylolisthesis condition between an offset vertebra and an adjacent vertebra, comprising:

an elongated stem sized for introduction into the disc space between the offset and adjacent vertebrae;

an enlarged flange at one end of said stem, said flange having a bone contacting face configured to apply a force to the offset vertebra; and

a tool engagable to said elongated stem, said tool sized for manipulation outside the disc space to apply a pushing force communicated through ~~said distraction device~~ the apparatus to the offset vertebra to reduce the offset vertebra relative to the adjacent vertebra.

25. (Original) The apparatus for reducing a spondylolisthesis condition according to claim 24, wherein said enlarged flange is integral with said elongated stem.

26. (Original) The apparatus for reducing a spondylolisthesis condition according to claim 24, wherein said enlarged flange is integral with said tool.

27. (Original) The apparatus for reducing a spondylolisthesis condition according to claim 24, wherein said elongated stem includes bone engaging surfaces to engage the offset and adjacent vertebrae to prevent slip between the vertebrae after the spondylolisthesis

condition has been reduced.

28. (Original) The apparatus for reducing a spondylolisthesis condition according to claim 24, wherein said elongated stem includes opposite top and bottom surfaces and further includes a stop face projecting from said stem away from said bottom surface and configured for contacting the adjacent vertebra to prevent further reduction of the offset vertebra.

29.-37. (Cancelled)

38. (New) A distraction device for distracting an intervertebral space between adjacent vertebrae, comprising:

a stem portion extending along a longitudinal axis and adapted for insertion within the intervertebral space, said stem portion having a height corresponding to a select distracted height of the intervertebral space; and

a transverse flange portion having a bone contacting face adapted to engage one of the adjacent vertebrae when said stem portion is inserted into the intervertebral space to transmit an axial force to said one of the adjacent vertebrae.

39. (New) The distraction device of claim 38, wherein said stem portion includes opposite bone engaging portions, each of said bone engaging portions configured to resist expulsion of said stem portion from the intervertebral space.

40. (New) The distraction device of claim 39, wherein each of said bone engaging portions defines a plurality of ridges.

41. (New) The distraction device of claim 38, wherein said stem portion includes side portions, each of said side portions defining a concave surface.

42. (New) The distraction device of claim 41, wherein said flange portion includes concave side edges, each of said concave side edges being contiguous with a corresponding one of said concave surfaces of said side portions.

43. (New) The distraction device of claim 38, wherein said flange portion has a fan-shaped configuration.

44. (New) The distraction device of claim 38, further comprising a transverse stop element arranged generally opposite said transverse flange portion relative to said longitudinal axis, said transverse stop element adapted to engage an opposite one of the adjacent vertebrae to limit insertion of said stem portion into the intervertebral space.

45. (New) The distraction device of claim 44, wherein said transverse stop element is formed integral with said stem portion.

46. (New) The distraction device of claim 38, wherein said flange portion is formed integral with said stem portion.

47. (New) The distraction device of claim 38, further comprising an insertion tool engaged with said stem portion and sized to extend outside of the intervertebral space for transmission of said axial force to said one of the adjacent vertebrae.

48. (New) The distraction device of claim 47, wherein said flange portion is formed integral with said insertion tool.

49. (New) The distraction device of claim 47, wherein said insertion tool is releasably engaged with said stem portion so as to be selectively separable therefrom.

50. (New) The distraction device of claim 49, wherein said insertion tool is threadedly engaged with said stem portion.

51. (New) The distraction device of claim 38, wherein said stem portion is configured for selective engagement with a surgical instrument.

52. (New) The distraction device of claim 51, wherein one of said stem portion and said surgical instrument defines a passage, another of said stem portion and said surgical instrument defining a projection at least partially received within said passage to locate said surgical instrument relative to the adjacent vertebrae.

53. (New) The distraction device of claim 51, wherein said surgical instrument comprises a tubular sleeve sized to receive one or more surgical devices therethrough for

advancement toward the intervertebral space.

54. (New) The distraction device of claim 38, wherein said stem portion includes a rounded leading end portion to facilitate insertion of said stem portion into the intervertebral space and distraction of the adjacent vertebrae.

55. (New) The distraction device of claim 38, wherein said axial force comprises a reduction force to reduce a spondylolisthesis condition between the adjacent vertebrae.

56. (New) A surgical device, comprising:
means for distracting an intervertebral space between adjacent vertebrae to a select distracted height; and
means for reducing a spondylolisthesis condition between the adjacent vertebrae.

57. (New) The surgical device of claim 56, wherein said means for distracting includes means for engaging each of the adjacent vertebrae to resist expulsion from the intervertebral space.

58. (New) The surgical device of claim 56, further comprising means for limiting insertion of said means for distracting into the intervertebral space.

59. (New) The surgical device of claim 56, further comprising means for inserting said means for distracting into the intervertebral space, said mean for inserting being

releasably engaged with said means for distracting so as to be selectively separable therefrom.

60. (New) A method for performing a surgical procedure on adjacent vertebrae, comprising:

providing a device including an axial stem portion and a transverse flange portion;

inserting the axial stem portion into an intervertebral space between the adjacent vertebrae; and

engaging the transverse flange portion against one of the adjacent vertebrae.

61. (New) The method of claim 60, further comprising applying an axial force to the device and transmitting the axial force to the one of the adjacent vertebrae.

62. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the transmitting of the axial force results in axially displacing the one of the adjacent vertebrae relative to the other of the adjacent vertebrae.

63. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the transmitting of the axial force results in reducing a spondylolisthesis condition between the adjacent vertebrae.

64. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the inserting results in distracting the intervertebral space to a select distracted height.

65. (New) The method of claim 64, wherein the transmitting of the axial force results in reducing a spondylolisthesis condition between the adjacent vertebrae.

66. (New) The method of claim 64, wherein the axial stem portion includes a rounded leading end portion to facilitate the inserting and the distracting.

67. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the device includes a transverse stop portion arranged generally opposite the transverse flange portion; and

the method further comprising engaging the transverse stop portion against an opposite one of the adjacent vertebrae to limit the inserting.

68. (New) The method of claim 60, further comprising providing an insertion tool engaged with the axial stem portion to facilitate the inserting and the engaging.

69. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the insertion tool is releasably engaged with the axial stem portion; and

the method further comprising selectively separating the insertion tool from the axial stem portion.

70. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the axial stem portion is configured for selective engagement with a surgical instrument; and

the method further comprising selectively engaging the surgical instrument with the axial stem portion.

71. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein the surgical instrument comprises a tubular sleeve; and

the method further comprising advancing a surgical device through the tubular sleeve toward the intervertebral space.